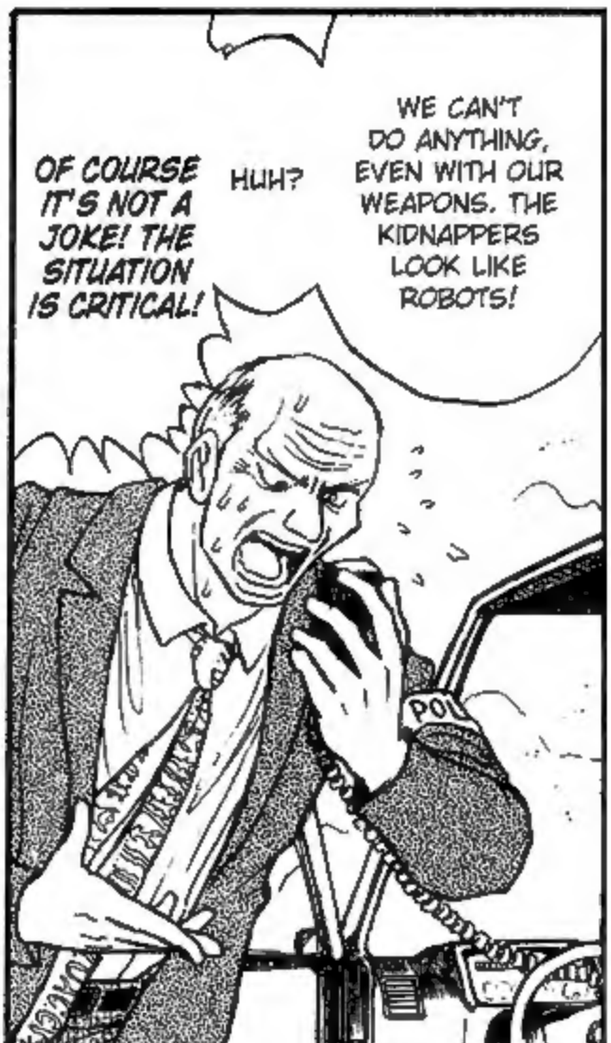
VVVHHH
ALL OF MY MEN HAVE BEEN KILLED BY THE KIDNAPPERS!
THIS IS LT. MAUCLAIR! THIS IS A PRIORITY CALL! I AM REQUESTING REINFORCE-MENTS!

ACT VII: KARAKURI * A MAN

"THE WIND AND THE LIGHT"


OF COURSE IT'S NOT A JOKE! THE SITUATION IS CRITICAL!
HUH?
WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING, EVEN WITH OUR WEAPONS. THE KIDNAPPERS LOOK LIKE ROBOTS!
POL

... SHIRO-GANE!
IT'S REALLY DARK
BUT... THEY'RE DEFI-NITELY THERE.
I TOOK OUT FOUR OF THEM...
SO THERE'S THREE LEFT. WITH THINGS AS THEY ARE, I'LL WAIT FOR THEM TO ACT.
THIS REMINDS ME OF THAT TIME WITH MY MASTER IN CHINA...
HH

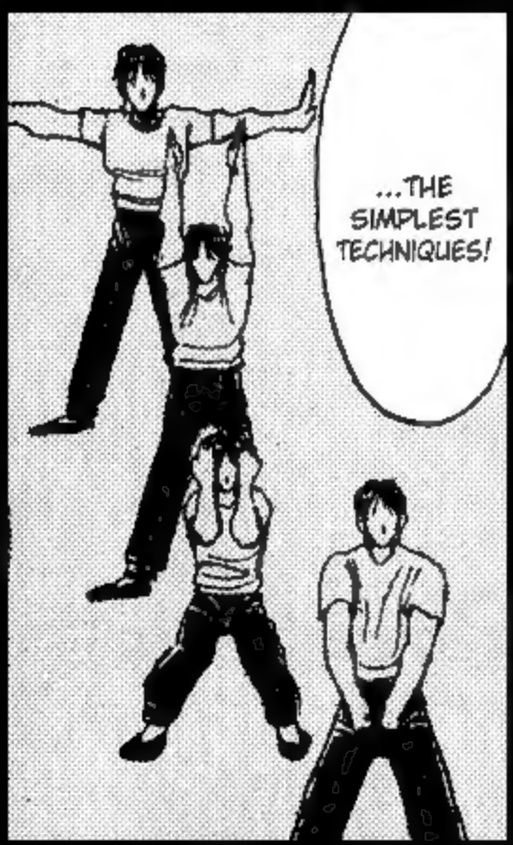
*THIS IS HOW NARUMI'S NAME IS READ IN CHINESE

LISTEN, MING-HAI.
...
ZNN
WHEN IT'S ALMOST TOTALLY DARK, YOUR EYES SHINE AND CAN BE A BEACON FOR YOUR ENEMIES...
IF YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES, YOU WILL BE ONE WITH THE DARKNESS. IT WILL THEN BECOME YOUR ALLY...
THE AIR THEY DISPLACE WHEN MOVING...
LISTEN FOR THEIR CRACKING JOINTS, THE RUSTLING OF THEIR CLOTHES... LISTEN TO THE BEAT OF THE BLOOD IN THEIR TEMPLES...

SPAAAA
DOH
SSAH
SBOW

AHHHH
HOH
UUUUU

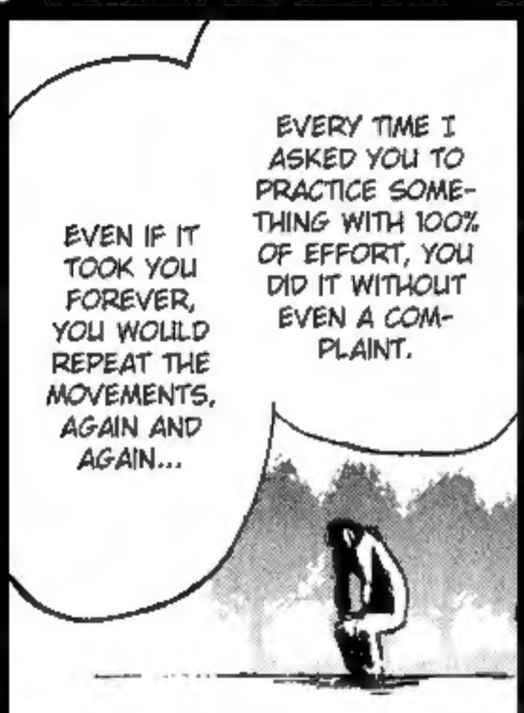
HAA
FUU
FUU
TWO DOWN!
BRLOM
GOOD ...
THE ELDERS SAY NOT TO CONGRATULATE THE YOUNG TOO QUICKLY.
HAA
FUU
FUU
ME?! A GENIUS?! YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN, MASTER! I RECEIVED SEVERAL NEAR-FATAL HITS!
BUT... IF THERE WAS A FIGHTING GENIUS, IT WOULD BE YOU.



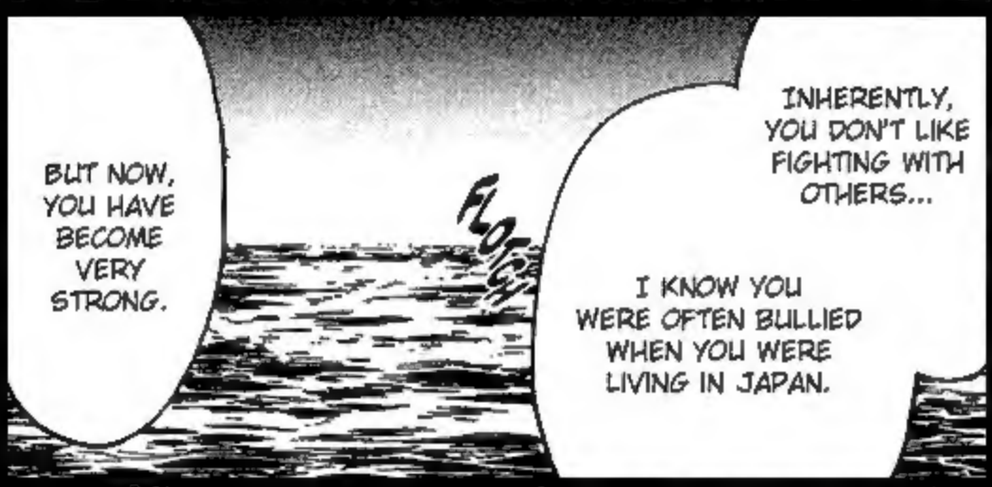
- BREATHING TECHNIQUES -

- FOOTWORK TECHNIQUES -

THERE'S A SAYING: "GENIUSES ARE OFTEN DEFEATED BY THEIR OWN GENIUS"! WHEN ONE HAS TOO MUCH TALENT, ONE CAN BECOME SELF-IMPORTANT...
THE GENIUS I'M TALKING ABOUT IS NOT THAT KIND OF GENIUS.
HE'S AN EXCEPTIONAL FIGHTER! ME... I'M KINDA SLOW...
THE FIGHTING GENIUS SHOULD BE BROTHER WANG!


EVERY TIME I ASKED YOU TO PRACTICE SOMETHING WITH 100% OF EFFORT, YOU DID IT WITHOUT EVEN A COMPLAINT.
EVEN IF IT TOOK YOU FOREVER, YOU WOULD REPEAT THE MOVEMENTS, AGAIN AND AGAIN...

SAH
SAH
ZDAAN
ZDAAN
YOU HAVE COMPLETELY MASTERED ALL OF THE TECHNIQUES I TAUGHT YOU...
YET YOU STILL MAKE GREAT EFFORTS.
REAL GENIUSES ...
...ARE THOSE WHO, LIKE YOU, MANAGE TO APPLY 100% OF THE SIMPLEST TECHNIQUES, BECAUSE THEY ARE OFTEN THE MOST DIFFICULT TO MASTER.
THIS IS TOO MUCH PRAISE, MASTER ...
MING-HAI...
...I KNOW WHY YOU ARE SO PREOCCUPIED.
!


BUT NOW, YOU HAVE BECOME VERY STRONG.
FLOAT
INHERENTLY, YOU DON'T LIKE FIGHTING WITH OTHERS...
I KNOW YOU WERE OFTEN BULLIED WHEN YOU WERE LIVING IN JAPAN.

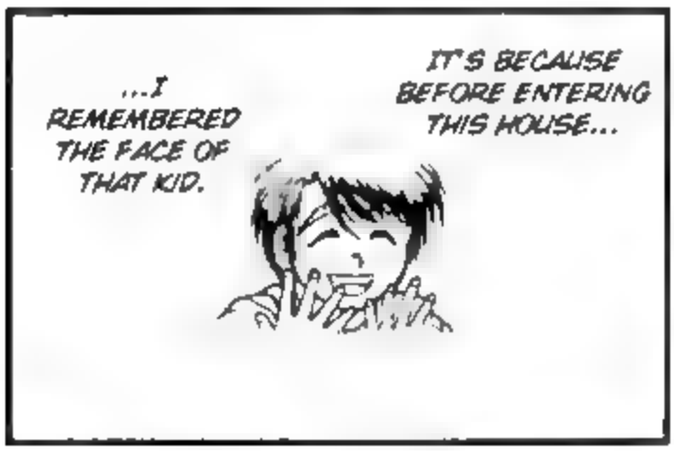
MY COUNTRY WAS AT PEACE... AND I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE...
...MAKING A NAME FOR MYSELF IN KI TOURNAMENTS OR ULTIMATE FIGHTING*.
"WHAT WILL I USE THIS STRENGTH FOR?"
I ASKED MYSELF THIS QUESTION THE LAST TIME I WENT BACK TO JAPAN.

*FREE-FIGHTING TOURNAMENTS VERY POPULAR IN JAPAN, BRAZIL AND THE US, WHERE FIGHTERS ARE FROM DIFFERENT FIGHTING SCHOOLS.

YOU WOULD ALWAYS GET INTO FIGHTS, ESPECIALLY WITH THE MAFIA TYPES WHO CARRIED PISTOLS...
...OR WITH COOKS, WHO WERE A BIT TOO SPIRITED.
IS THAT WHY YOU CAUSED A LOT OF MISCHIEF...
...AFTER YOUR RETURN HERE?
I'M SORRY, MASTER.
I THOUGHT THAT BY PUTTING MYSELF IN DANGER...
...I WOULD UNDERSTAND SOMETHING. BUT IT WASN'T ANY HELP!
HUH?
I'M TALKING ABOUT THAT INVISIBLE AND SAD WIND THAT BLOWS IN THE HEARTS OF MEN WHO, LIKE YOU...
A WIND THAT BLOWS...
...WITHIN YOUR HEART...
...POSSESS EXTRA-ORDINARY STRENGTH,
BUT DON'T KNOW WHAT TO USE IT FOR...
...THAT WIND...
MING-HAI, THAT WIND WAS ALSO BLOWING IN THE HEARTS OF MANY COURAGEOUS HEROES...

...HOW TO STOP THAT WIND!
NOBODY BUT YOU CAN FIND OUT...

YES...


...I REMEMBERED THE FACE OF THAT KID.
IT'S BECAUSE BEFORE ENTERING THIS HOUSE...

WHY AM I THINKING ABOUT THAT?
THAT'S WEIRD ...

EVEN IF I STILL DON'T KNOW WHO HE WAS AND WHAT CONNECTED US TOGETHER
LITTLE BY LITTLE, IMAGES COME BACK TO ME

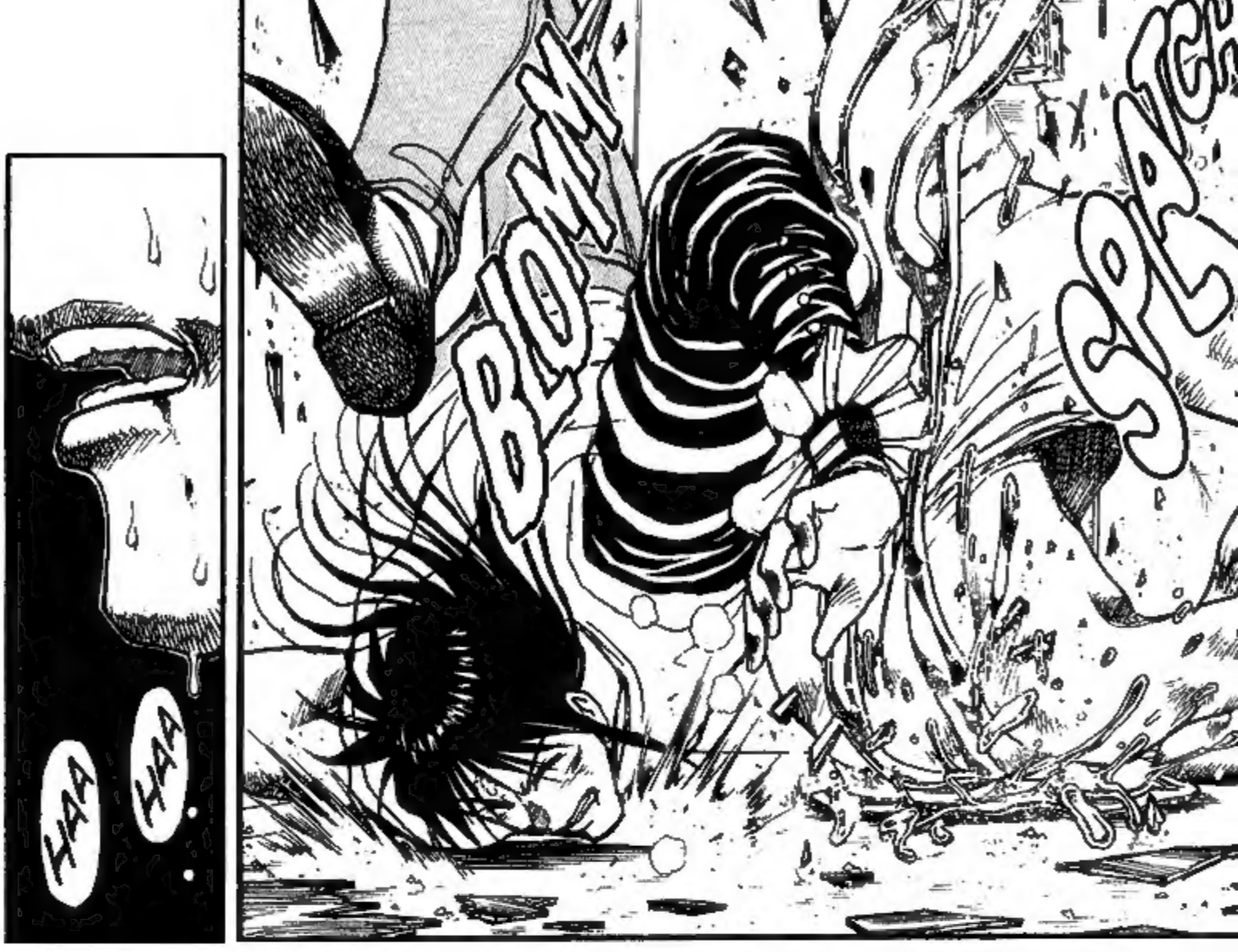
EVEN IF I'VE LOST MOST OF MY MEMORIES, IT'S EASY TO IMAGINE THAT HE WAS SOMEHOW LINKED TO MY ACCIDENT.
THAT KID WITH THE EXTRAORDINARY SMILE.

THAT KID WAS MAYBE THE ONLY PERSON...
AR. I TO STOP THE WIND BLOWING IN MY AR AR"

BRIOOM

SBLOOM M
... SHIT!
BRLIINNG

... WHY?
WHY DID I FAIL?!
WHEN I... WAS SO STRONG !!!


HAA
HAA
BOM!
SPLAT

PFFF...
HHH
HHH

"I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE CHILDREN"...
..."AS WELL AS THE TEACHER"

THAT MAKES ME WANNA KILL YOU EVEN MORE!
I'M IM-PRESSED. FOR A SIMPLE HUMAN...
YOU'RE VERY STRONG!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

CLAP CLAP

THIS TIME, EVERY-THING WILL CHANGE ...

HUMANS ARE MY PETS!
YEAH
I'M FLAVIO.
SCHLING
YOU'RE THE ONE CALLED FLAVIO?
GAH!
ZZAN
EH!
TRY NOT TO HURT MY LITTLE PETS!
BASTARD!!!

ZZAN
TAKE THAT, HUMAN !!!
BAA
!
STOP THAT, YOU OLD COOT!!!